



NEWS RELEASE

WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE

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Amy C. Lea Named Women in Business Advocate of the Year

Laramie – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Amy C. Lea, Training & Resource Coordinator for the Wyoming Women's Business Center (WWBC) the Women in Business Advocate of the Year 2003.

This award is given to an individual who has advanced women's business ownership. Evaluation criteria include efforts to increase business and financial opportunities for women, legal, financial or managerial assistance, voluntary efforts to strengthen the role of women business owners within the community and advocacy for the women-owned business community as a whole. The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

Amy Lea is responsible for developing and teaching business and technical skills workshops; providing technical training and support to the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and its member programs in 23 counties and the Wind River Reservation and coordinating and promoting mentoring and training events around the state. Amy obtained a Bachelor of Sciences in Biological Sciences at Cornell University in 1994. She has also served in the U.S. Peace Corps as a volunteer.

One of the ways that Amy supports, promotes and connects with women-owned businesses is through the Women's Business Connection Roundtable meetings held across Wyoming. She uses innovative and creative methods to provide workshops, speakers and training to women business owners and prospective women business owners. Amy was responsible for coordinating Small Business Outreach Days in a dozen plus counties this past year. At these forums, representatives from the Wyoming Business Council, Small Business Development Center, Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center, GRO-Biz, Small Business Innovative Research program and more presented information to communities about what they do and how they can partner with communities and businesses.

"Amy is intelligent, hard working, compassionate, motivated and best of all, she really enjoys working with people and helping them meet their challenges," writes nominator Leah Bruscino, Northwest Regional Director, Wyoming Business Council. "Amy Lea is one of the most committed women I know when it comes to supporting other women and their business ventures," echoes Judith Semple, Director, Region 5, Wyoming Small Business Development Centers.

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